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MSC will be mega city by 2001: PM

Eirmalasang Bani

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), which stretches some 57,500ha from Kuala Lumpur City Centre to KL International Airport (KLIA), will become a "mega city" in 100 years' time.

"In 15 years' time, the population is expected to reach 2.5 million. Putrajaya alone now has about 300,000 people," he said when launching the publicity and public objection for MSC local programmes at the Petronas Management Training Centre in Bangi yesterday.

Of the total MSC area, 10,000ha has been allocated for Putrajaya which is the centre of Government administration.

Asked when Putrajaya will be declared a Federal Territory, Dr Mahathir said: "Soon".

Dr Mahathir yesterday received programmes for the development of five areas located within the MSC, namely Cyberjaya (6,325ha), Sungai Merab (8,860ha), Dengkil (3,604ha), Salak Tinggi (2,888ha) and KLIA suburban (22,914ha).

Under the proposed plans, Dengkil will be known as Cyber Village, Salak Tinggi as Airport City and Sungai Merab as Tele Suburb.

Dr Mahathir said the development of these five areas will involve "a lot of money" but did not state the amount.

"It will take time; we do not expect things to be developed overnight," he said, adding that while a comprehensive plan has been laid out, there will be an opportunity for the public to give their opinions.

As stipulated in the Town and Country Planning Act 1976, the public is allowed to voice their protests or suggestions over a proposed development programme to be carried out within their areas.

Dr Mahathir, however, does not expect much protest from the public over such programmes because they will help improve the people's living standards as well as increase the value of land in the areas.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said these areas are important to investors as they are located in Selangor, which is situated close to Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital.

"By the year 2005, Selangor will reach a developed state status. This is faster than what we expect for the country, which we hope can become a developed nation by the year 2020".

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